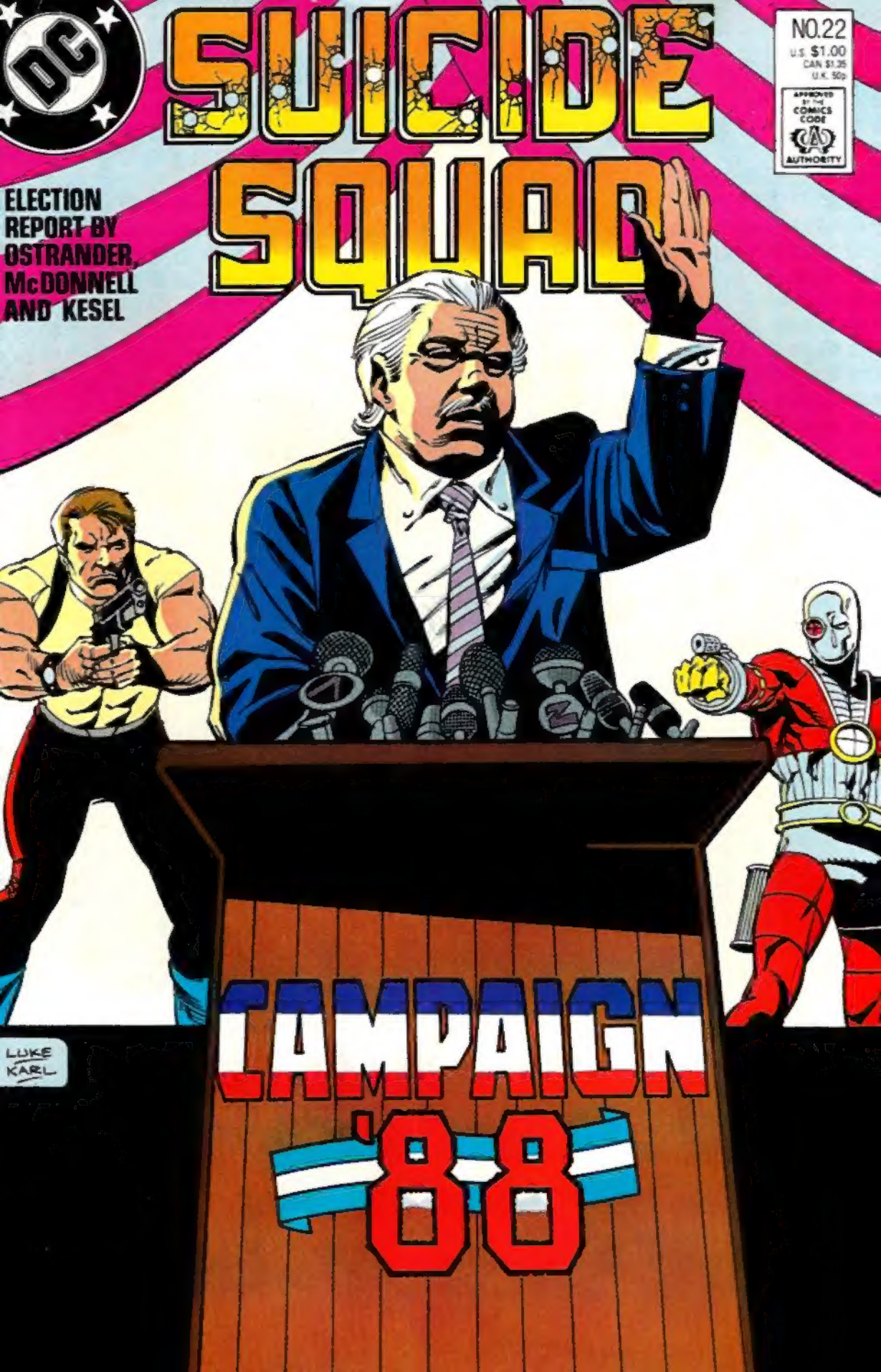
DC
SUICIDE SQUAD
NO.22
U.S. $1.00
CAN $1.25
U.K. 50p
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
ELECTION REPORT BY OSTRANDER, McDONNELL AND KESEL
CAMPAIGN '88
LUKE KARL

SUICIDE SQUAD 22 Published monthly by DC Comics Inc., 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10103. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to SUICIDE SQUAD, DC Comics Inc., Subscription Dept., P.O. Box 1981, New York, NY 10185. Annual subscription rate $12.00. Outside U.S.A. $14.00 in U.S. funds. Copyright © 1988 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of DC Comics Inc. Advertising Representative: Print Advertising Representatives Inc., 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017. (212) 391-1400. Printed in U.S.A.
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THOUGH YOU MAY NOT BE AWARE OF IT, THE SQUAD HAS BEEN UNDER POLITICAL SIEGE THE PAST COUPLE OF MONTHS.
SOME OF YOU MAY REMEMBER DEREK TOLLIVER --WHO USED TO BE OUR NSC LIAISON.
HE'S THAT GALAH THAT WENT ON THE FIRESTORM FIASCO IN NEW YORK AND TURNED LOOSE THE PARASITE.* USELESS PIECE OF MEAT, THAT ONE!
MUST HAVE BEEN IF EVEN YOU DIDN'T LIKE HIM!
YER SUCH A FUNNY SHEILA, Y'KNOW THAT? HO HO HO! IT IS TO LAFF!
*SEE FIRESTORM #64. --CONTINUITY COP BOB
HE WAS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FIREBIRD FIASCO IN RUSSIA.* DREAMED IT UP HIS OWN SELF AND SENT US IN WITH FAULTY INFO.
*SEE ISSUES 5 TO 7. --FEELING OLDER BOB.
DID HE? I HAVE A FEW WORDS I'D LIKE TO EXCHANGE WITH HIM.
HE'S BEEN EVEN CUTER SINCE THEN. TOLD SENATOR JOE CRAY ABOUT US.
THEY THREATENED TO BLOW OUR COVER IF WE DIDN'T HELP CRAY GET RE-ELECTED.

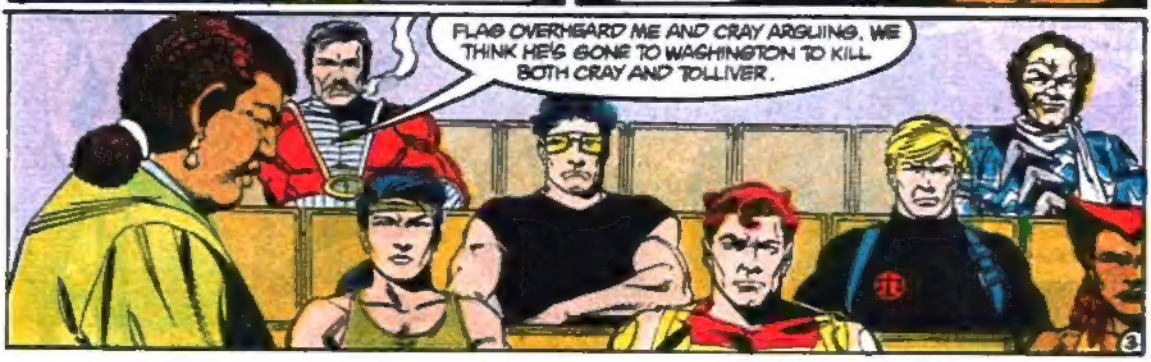
I ASSUME THE BLACKMAIL ATTEMPT FAILED SINCE WE HAVEN'T EXACTLY BEEN RINGING DOORBELLS FOR CRAY.

I KEPT DELAYING THE ISSUE UNTIL I GOT INFO THAT CHECK-MATED TOLLIVER.*
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU BLACKMAILED THE BLACKMAILER.
* PROVIDED BY THE CHECKMATE DIVISION OF TASK FORCE X; THE SQUAD DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT THEM. -- JOHN

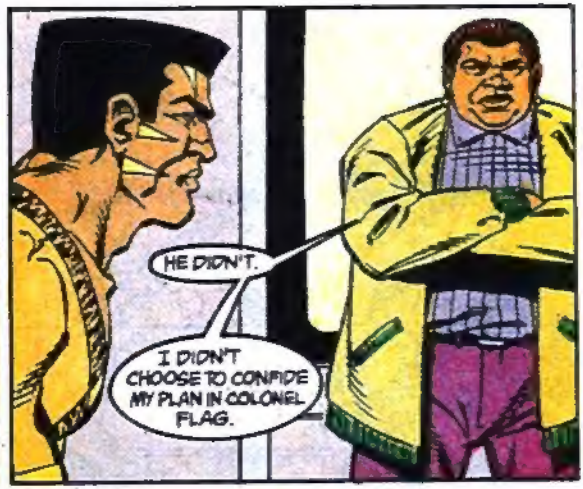
SHOULD'VE JUST SHOT 'EM.

BRILLIANT IDEA, DEADHEAD! OF COURSE, THE FACT THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAD GIVEN ORDERS TO COOPERATE WOULDN'T COMPLICATE MATTERS FOR YOU, WOULD IT?!
DON'T TELL ME. YOU'D SHOOT HIM, TOO, RIGHT?

UNFORTUNATELY, COLONEL FLAG IS OF THE SAME MIND AS YOU.


FLAG OVERHEARD ME AND CRAY ARGUING. WE THINK HE'S GONE TO WASHINGTON TO KILL BOTH CRAY AND TOLLIVER.

WHY?!
IF HE KNEW THAT YOU HAD THE MATTER UNDER CONTROL...!


HE DIDN'T.
I DIDN'T CHOOSE TO CONFIDE MY PLAN IN COLONEL FLAG.

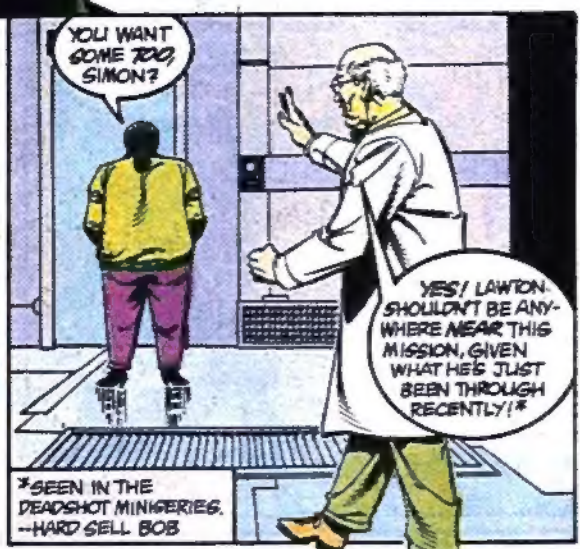
YOU WERE PLAYING ONE OF YOUR DAMNED LONE HANDS AGAIN!
MY ACTIONS ARE NOT THE ISSUE HERE AND NOW! WHAT THE COLONEL INTENDS TO DO IS! AND THAT IS WHY I HAVE ASSEMBLED THE SQUAD!

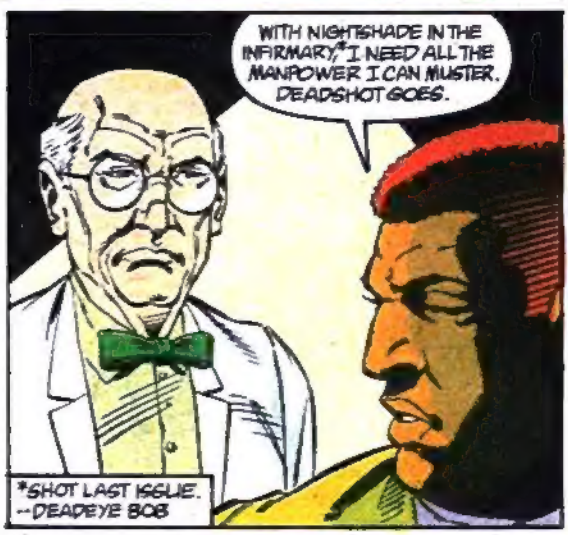
YOU'RE GOING AFTER HIM. YOU WILL KEEP HIM FROM KILLING TOLLIVER AND CRAY.
BY WHATEVER MEANS NECESSARY.

YOU MEAN KILL HIM?!
BY WHATEVER MEANS NECESSARY.
OH YEAH. I'M GONNER LOVE THIS ASSIGNMENT!
I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN. I HAVE PLANS OF MY OWN.
YOU ARE OUT OF YOUR MIND! I WILL NOT BE A PARTY TO THIS!
NOR I.
THAT GOES FOR MOST OF US.
WELLLL... I CAN'T MAKE YOU GO.
BUT YOU PEOPLE ARE THE ONES MOST LIKELY TO TRY TO BRING BACK THE COLONEL ALIVE. YOU GONNA LEAVE THE FIELD TO THOSE WHO JUST WANT HIM DEAD?
5

THE SS-1 IS WAITING. SHEBA'S ALREADY ON BOARD.
FLYING AT MACH 1 WILL GET YOU TO ANDREWS IN ABOUT AN HOUR. I WILL CONTACT YOU WITH AN UPDATE ONCE YOU GET THERE.

THIS ISN'T SETTLED, AMANDA. THERE'S GOING TO BE A RECKONING.


YOU WANT GOME TOO, SIMON?
YES! LAWTON SHOULDN'T BE ANYWHERE NEAR THIS MISSION, GIVEN WHAT HE'S JUST BEEN THROUGH RECENTLY!*
*SEEN IN THE DEADSHOT MINISERIES. --HARD SELL BOB


WITH NIGHTSHADE IN THE INFIRMARY,* I NEED ALL THE MANPOWER I CAN MUSTER. DEADSHOT GOES.
*SHOT LAST ISSUE. --DEADEYE BOB

I WASH MY HANDS OF IT! IF LAWTON GOES OFF THE DEEP END ON THIS MISSION, THE RESPONSIBILITY WILL BE ON YOU!

THAT'S WHERE IT'S ALWAYS BEEN, SIMON.

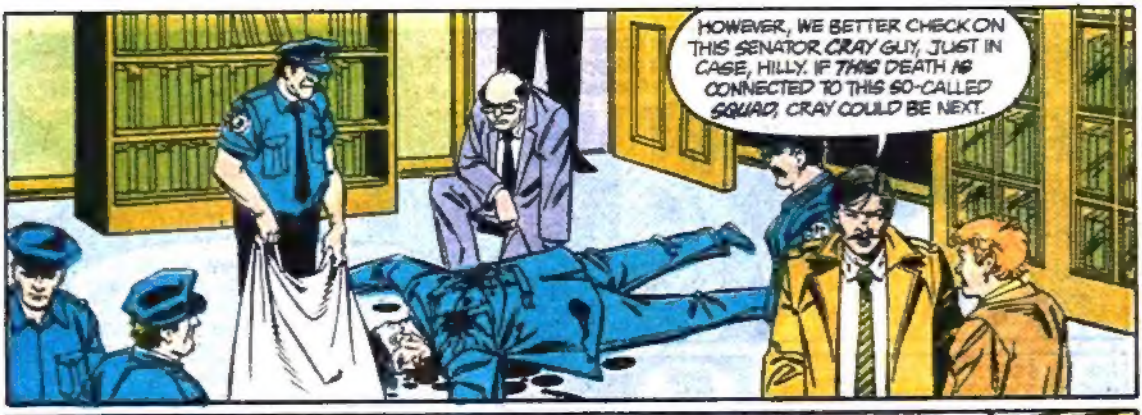
YOU RAISE TOLLIVER YET? WE GOT TO GET A WARNING TO HIM!
THERE'S NO RESPONSE AT HIS APARTMENT. I'VE BEEN RINGING HIS OFFICE BUT THERE'S BEEN NO REPLY. WAIT! SOMEONE'S PICKING UP! HELLO?

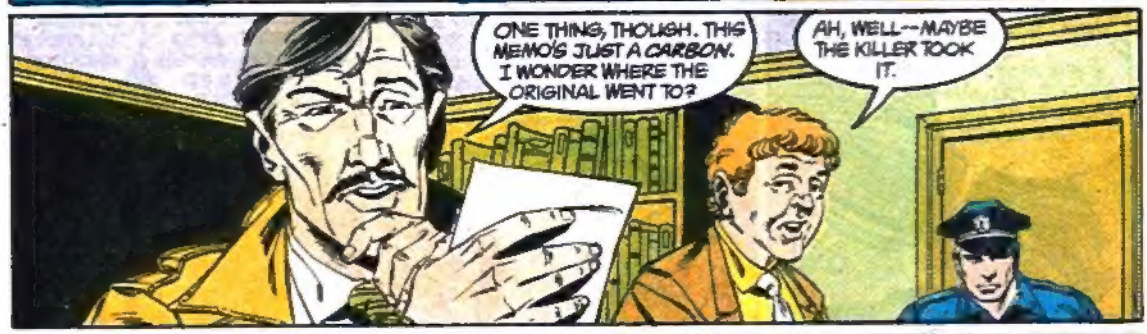
NO, I'M SORRY, BUT MR. TOLLIVER ISN'T AVAILABLE RIGHT NOW.
IF IT'S THAT URGENT, YOU CAN GIVE IT TO ME AND I'LL SEE HE GETS IT.

SHE HUNG UP.
FIGURE IT'S CONNECTED WITH WHOEVER CROAKED THIS TOLLIVER GUY, TOBE?
WHO KNOWS?

WHAT BOTHERS ME MORE IS THIS COPY OF THIS MEMO HE WAS PREPARING TO SEND OUT REGARDING THIS SO-CALLED SUICIDE SQUAD.
FIGURE MAYBE THEY CROAKED TOLLIVER TO SHUT HIM UP?

CRIPES, I HOPE NOT! YOU GET ONE OF THESE COVERT GOVERNMENT GROUPS INVOLVED AND EVERYTHING HITS THE FAN AND YOU'RE GOING TO GET SPLATTERED!
AND HEAVEN HELP US IF THE MEDIA GETS WIND OF THIS!


HOWEVER, WE BETTER CHECK ON THIS SENATOR CRAY GUY, JUST IN CASE, HILLY. IF THIS DEATH IS CONNECTED TO THIS SO-CALLED SQUAD, CRAY COULD BE NEXT.


ONE THING, THOUGH. THIS MEMO'S JUST A CARBON. I WONDER WHERE THE ORIGINAL WENT TO?
AH, WELL--MAYBE THE KILLER TOOK IT.

NO, TOBE-- IT'S SAFE AND SOUND IN MY POCKET.
SORRY, TOBE, BUT MY LITTLE GIRL NEEDS AN OPERATION AND I AIN'T GOT THE BREAD.

I KNOW A GUY IN THE MEDIA WILL PAY BIG BUCKS FOR A TIP LIKE THIS. I GOTTA DO IT.

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- 8:42 P.M. EST.

BELLE REVE'S GOT NO UPDATES, SO HERE'S HOW WE SPLIT UP.
NEMESIS, YOU CHECK YOUR FEDERAL CONTACTS. BRISCOE, YOU AND BLACK ORCHID AND SHADE ARE TO SCAN FROM THE AIR. I'LL GIVE YOU ALL YOUR QUADRANTS.

VIXEN, YOU'RE TO TRY TO PICK UP FLAG'S SCENT.
WITHOUT KNOWING WHERE TO START, IT'S GOING TO BE DIFFICULT.
I KNOW, BUT TRY. DEADSHOT! WHERE THE HELL YOU GOING?!

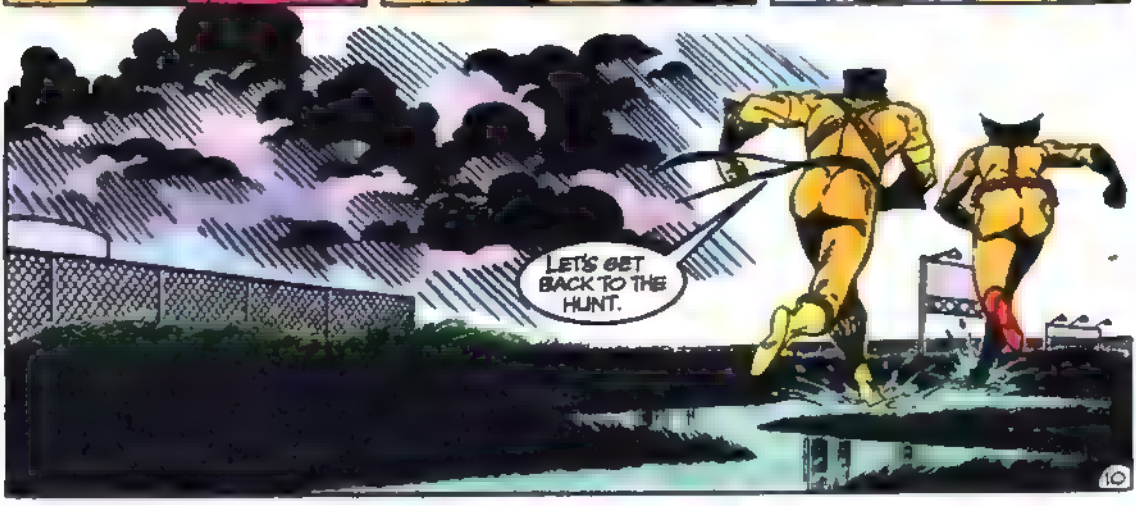
HUNTING.

SOUNDS GOOD T'US!
LET'S GO. I WANT TO FIND THE COLONEL BEFORE ANY OF THOSE JACKALS DO.

BEN, I'VE GOT A QUESTION. IF IT COMES DOWN TO IT, CAN YOU KILL FLAG?
WE'VE BOTH KILLED PEOPLE, MARI. NEITHER OF US IS PROUD OF THOSE MEMORIES BUT WE BOTH KNOW WE ARE CAPABLE OF IT.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I ASKED. ARE YOU CAPABLE OF KILLING RICK FLAG? YOU KNOW HIM, YOU'VE ADMIRED HIM. YOU FEEL FOR WHAT HE'S BEEN THROUGH
IF THE ONLY WAY TO STOP HIM, OR IF IT COMES DOWN TO YOUR LIFE OR HIS -- CAN YOU KILL HIM?

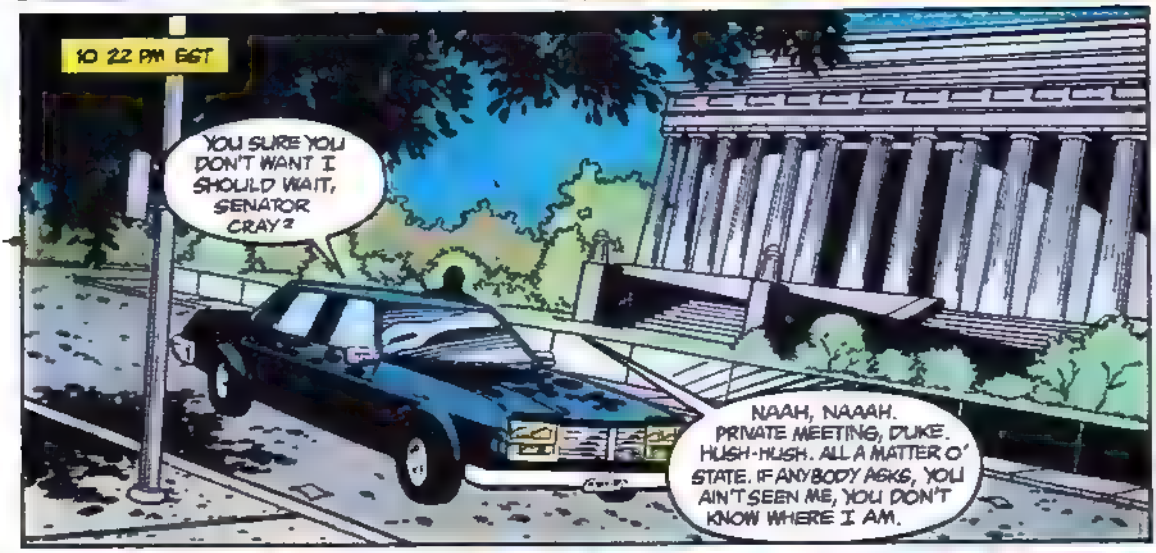
I COULD SAY YES, I COULD SAY NO. THE THING OF IT IS, WE WON'T REALLY KNOW UNTIL THE MOMENT COMES.


LET'S GET BACK TO THE HUNT.

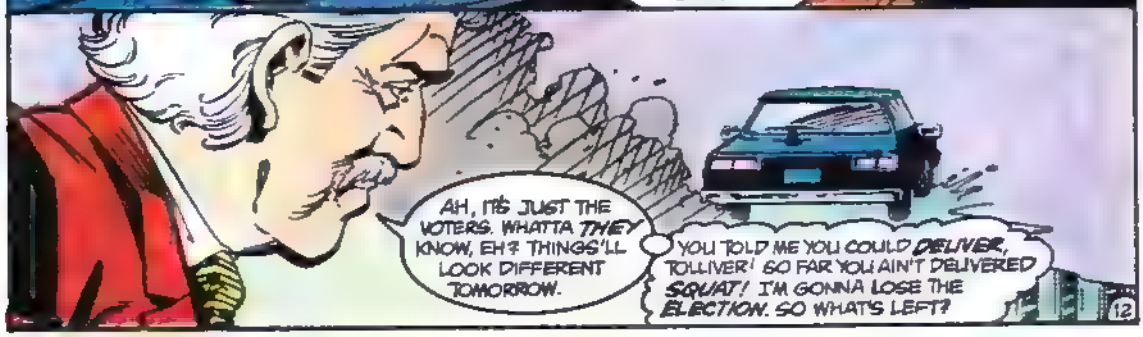
THE EDITORIAL OFFICES OF A GREAT METROPOLITAN NEWSPAPER 9:16 PM EST
I DON'T KNOW IF WE CAN GO WITH THIS. WHAT CORROBORATION WE GOT?
WELL, YOU GOT THE FACT THE GUY WHO WROTE IT IS DEAD.
WE DON'T KNOW THAT THE TWO ARE CONNECTED
IN FACT, IF WE PRINT THIS WE'RE IMPLYING THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS BEHIND THIS GUY'S MURDER!
LOOK, I KNOW YOU SAID YOUR GUY'S RELIABLE BUT WE DON'T EVEN HAVE THE ORIGINALS ON THIS DOCUMENT--JUST THE TEXT SENT BY MODEM.
I NEED AT LEAST ONE MORE PIECE OF CORROBORATION BEFORE I CAN GO WITH THIS!
WOULD SENATOR GRAY'S DEATH DO FOR CORROBORATION, CHIEF?
YEAH, IT WOULD DO, WISEGUY
AND--BY THE WAY--DON'T CALL ME "CHIEF".
11

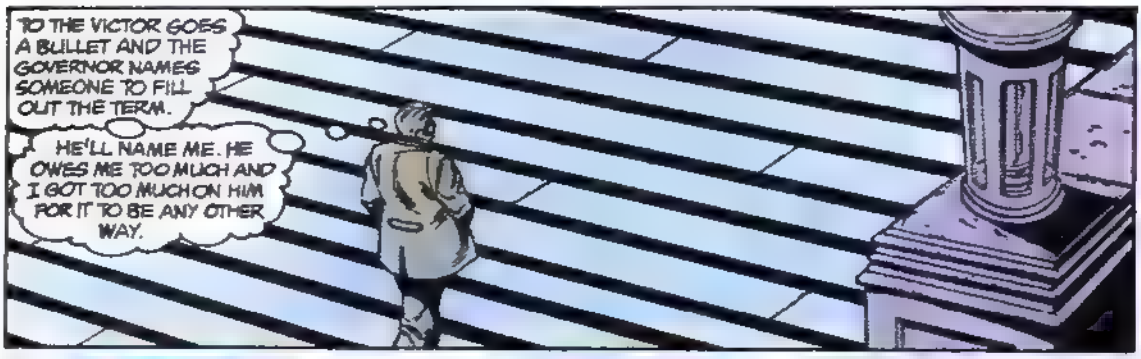
9:53 EST.
BEN, I'VE JUST HEARD SOMETHING FROM MY CONTACTS!
DEREK TOLLIVER WAS SHOT AND KILLED IN HIS OFFICE THIS EVENING AROUND 5:30.

DAMN!
OKAY, VIXEN AND I'LL TRY PICKING UP FLAG'S TRAIL OUTSIDE THE OFFICE. PASS THE WORD ON TO MISSION CENTRAL, THEN CONCENTRATE ON LOCATING CRAY! BRONZE TIGER-- OUT!


10:22 PM EST
YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT I SHOULD WAIT, SENATOR CRAY?
NAAH, NAAAH. PRIVATE MEETING, DUKE. HUSH-HUSH. ALL A MATTER O' STATE. IF ANYBODY ASKS, YOU AIN'T SEEN ME, YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE I AM.

WHAT'S THE LATEST RETURNS GAY?
NOT GOOD, BOSS. YER TRAILIN' BAD.


AH, IT'S JUST THE VOTERS. WHATTA THEY KNOW, EH? THINGS'LL LOOK DIFFERENT TOMORROW.
YOU TOLD ME YOU COULD DELIVER, TOLLIVER! SO FAR YOU AIN'T DELIVERED SQUAT! I'M GONNA LOSE THE ELECTION. SO WHAT'S LEFT?


TO THE VICTOR GOES A BULLET AND THE GOVERNOR NAMES SOMEONE TO FILL OUT THE TERM.
HE'LL NAME ME. HE OWES ME TOO MUCH AND I GOT TOO MUCH ON HIM FOR IT TO BE ANY OTHER WAY.

SO TO HELL WITH THE ELECTORATE!
JOE CRAY'S STILL THEIR SENATOR-- WHETHER THEY LIKE IT OR NOT!

AND IF TOLLIVER TRIES TO WELSH ON OUR DEAL -- I'LL BLOW HIM OUT OF THE WATER ALONG WITH THIS GOD-FORSAKEN SUICIDE SQUAD!

BANG BANG, EDDIE

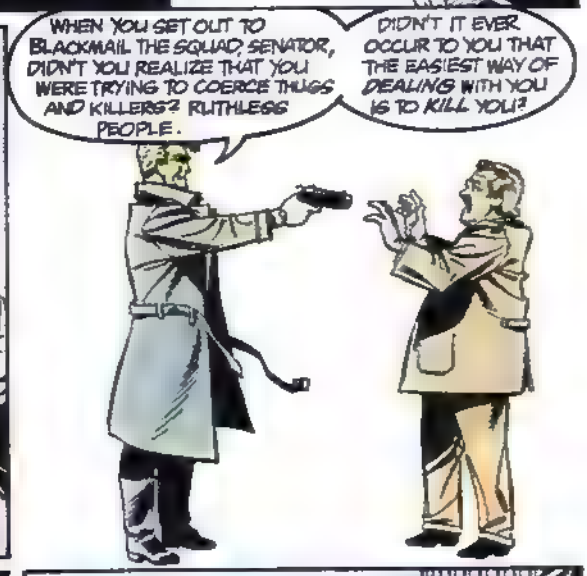
BELLE REVE -- 10:34 PM EST
IT'S ALL GONE WRONG, JOHN
TOLLIVER'S DEAD. I HAVE NO IDEA IF HE GOT CRAY TO AGREE NOT TO BLOW THE LID OFF BEFORE HE GOT KILLED.
THE WHOLE THING IS OUT OF CONTROL.
OUT OF YOUR CONTROL, YOU MEAN. AND YOU HATE THAT
YEAH.
WITH A PASSION
HOW ABOUT CALLING IN THE WASHINGTON POLICE, THEN? TELL THEM WHO THEY'RE LOOKING FOR-- GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO SAVE CRAY
I OWE CRAY NOTHING. BUT I OWE SOMETHING TO FLAG.
MAYBE -- JUST MAYBE -- ONE OF OUR PEOPLE CAN BRING HIM IN, WITHOUT KILLING HIM, BEFORE HE GETS CRAY I'VE GOTTA GIVE HIM THAT MUCH OF A CHANCE
14

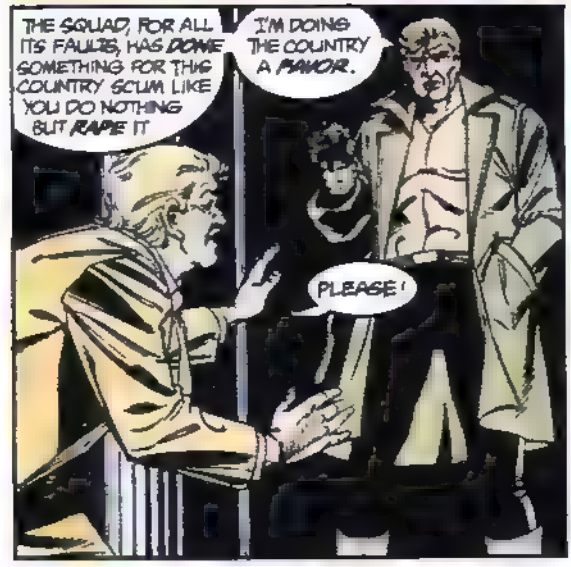
10:47 PM EST
THIS IS HOPELESS!
WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME -- ENOUGH LEADS!
ALL THESE NAMES, SACRIFICED TO DUTY!
THAT'S SOMETHING YOU KNOW ABOUT, FLAG--SACRIFICE AND DUTY. LIFE TOOK EVERYTHING ELSE FROM YOU
YOU GOT DAMN LITTLE THANKS IN RETURN -- EVEN FROM THOSE WHO MOST OWED IT TO YOU.
LIKE ME
I GOT CAUGHT DURING THAT RUSSIAN FIASCO AND, IF IT HAD BEEN UP TO WALLER, I COULD'VE ROTTED IN A GULAG.
BUT YOU AND NIGHTSHADE PUT TOGETHER A RESCUE TEAM TO BRING ME OUT--AGAINST ORDERS! EVEN FOUGHT THE JUSTICE LEAGUE TO DO IT!
MY PRIDE WOULDN'T LET ME THANK YOU FOR IT.
AND NOW, SOMETHING DEEP IN MY GUT TELLS ME I'VE RUN OUT OF TIME.

10:53 EST

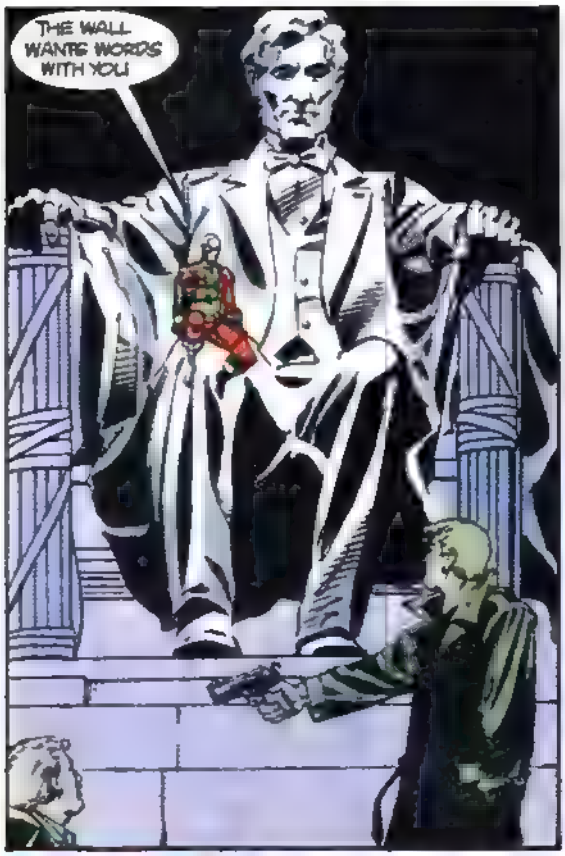
SENATOR CRAY? I'VE COME FROM DEREK TOLLIVER.
ABOUT DAMN TIME! WHERE IS TOLLIVER, ANYWAY?

DEAD. I KILLED HIM. LIKE I'M GOING TO KILL YOU.
NO! PLEASE! WHO ARE--?


WHEN YOU SET OUT TO BLACKMAIL THE SQUAD, SENATOR, DIDN'T YOU REALIZE THAT YOU WERE TRYING TO COERCE THUGS AND KILLERS? RUTHLESS PEOPLE.
DIDN'T IT EVER OCCUR TO YOU THAT THE EASIEST WAY OF DEALING WITH YOU IS TO KILL YOU?


THE SQUAD, FOR ALL ITS FAULTS, HAS DONE SOMETHING FOR THIS COUNTRY. SCUM LIKE YOU DO NOTHING BUT RAPE IT
I'M DOING THE COUNTRY A FAVOR.
PLEASE!

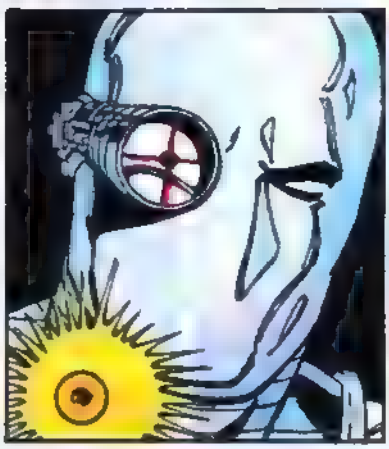
HEY, COLONEL

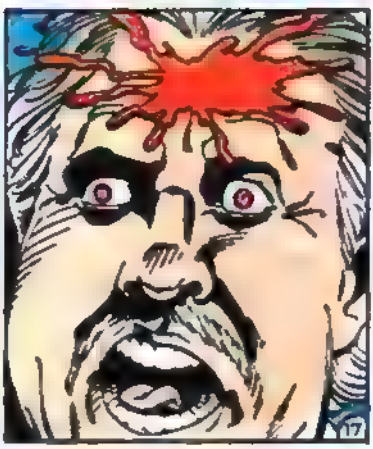

THE WALL WANTS WORDS WITH YOU.

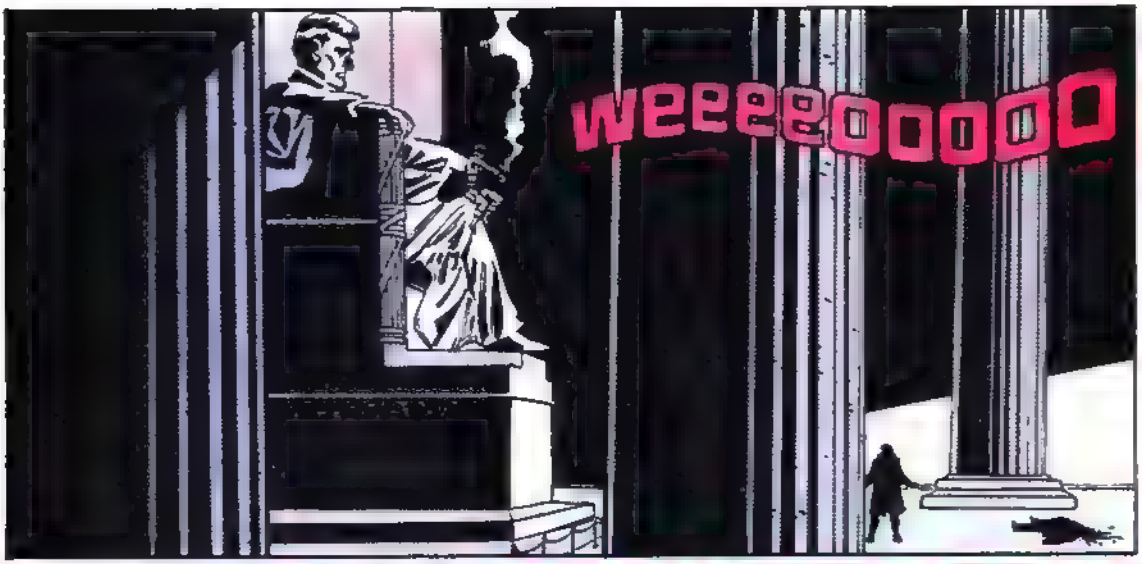
WHAT ARE YOU *DOING* HERE, LAWTON?

MAMMY WALLER'S ORDERS, COLONEL. SHE TOLD ME TO KEEP YOU FROM KILLING CRAY HERE BY WHATEVER MEANS NECESSARY.
EXACT WORDS.

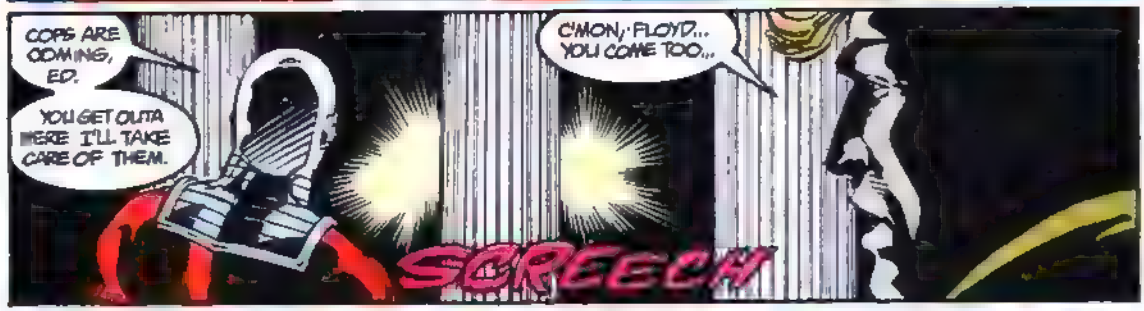
THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO KILL ME IF YOU CAN. I'VE COME TOO FAR TO BACK DOWN NOW.
YOU'RE *RIGHT*, COLONEL. *SOMEONE* HAS TO DIE.



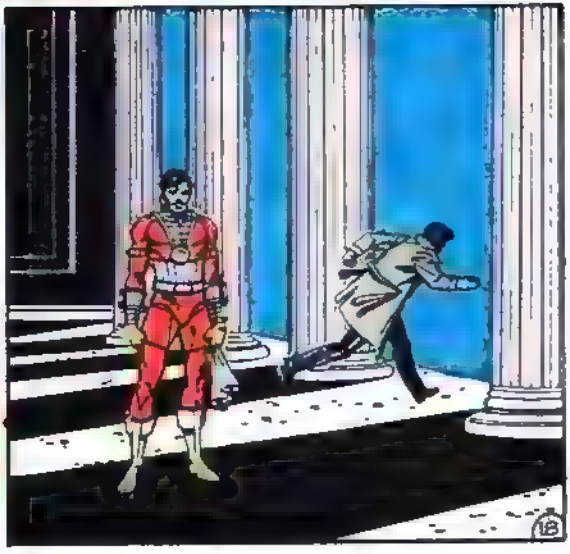



WEEEEOOOOO

I DID IT, ED. I KILLED THE OLD MAN THIS TIME. DID JUST LIKE MA TOLD ME TO THE LETTER.
WEEEOOO

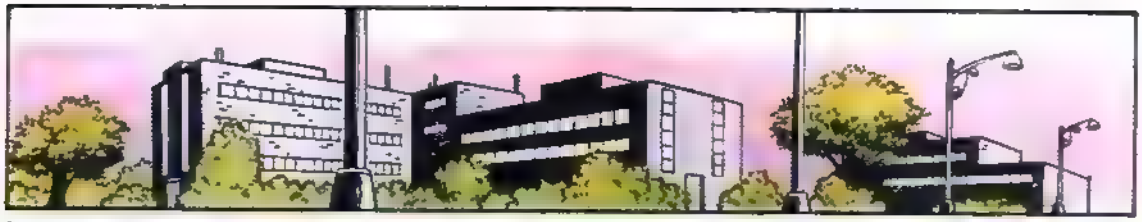

COPS ARE COMING, ED.
YOU GET OUTA HERE I'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM.
C'MON, FLOYD... YOU'LL COME TOO...
SCREECH

GO! OR I'LL BLOW YOUR BRAINS OUT AGAIN!



POLICE!
PUT UP YOUR WEAPONS!
SURE.
BULLETS FIRST.
BDOW!
BDOW!
BDOW!
BDOW!
POW!
BUDDA
BDOW!
BAM!
BDOW!
YAAAHHG!
BDOW!
BDOW!
BDOW!
KRAK!
SPANG!

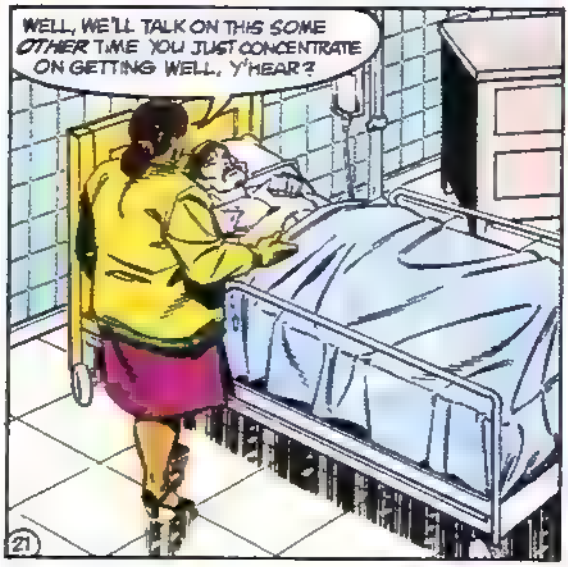
BUDDABUDDA
BOOW! POW!
CEASE FIRING!
YOU SIX--FAN OUT AND FIND THE ONE THAT RAN OFF!
HILLY! CALL THE MORGUE AND GET FORENSIC OVER HERE!
BETTER GET AN AMBULANCE, TOO, CAPTAIN!
ONE OF THESE JOKERS IS STILL ALIVE!
20



SO – WHY THE HELL YOU SHOOT CRAY, DEADHEAD?
JUST... FOLLOWIN' ORDERS... YOUR ORDERS...

I NEVER TOLD YOU TO DO THAT.
SAID... TO KEEP FLAG FROM... KILLING CRAY. ANY MEANS POSSIBLE EXACT... WORDS...

I DIDN'T MEAN BY KILLING HIM YOURSELF!
SHOULDA.. SAID SO. I DON'T READ MINDS...


WELL, WE'LL TALK ON THIS SOME OTHER TIME. YOU JUST CONCENTRATE ON GETTING WELL, Y'HEAR?

I WANT YOU HEALTHY WHEN I KILL YOU MYSELF!

JOIN THE SQUAD FOR MORE ACTION IN *INVASION #2*, THEN JOIN US HERE NEXT TIME FOR *WEIRD WAR STORIES!*

SUICIDE NOTES

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666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103

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Dear Suicide Staff,

I was amazed to see the mayhem and destruction the new, more powerful Jihad inflicted on Manhattan. I was even *more* amazed to see the Suicide Squad pulverize the terrorists without suffering a single casualty.

What made issues #17 and #18 of SUICIDE SQUAD genuine classics? First, the fantastic battle scenes. My personal favorite fight was the duel between Captain Cold and Agni. The Captain proved that cold beats (make that stomps) fire. Second, Mrs. Waller beginning her offensive attack on Tolliver. Finally, Captain Boomerang's confrontation with Ifrit. I had a feeling Boomerang would somehow encounter Mindboggler again.

As for new Squad members, how about the Pied Piper, Animal Man, Cat-Man, Killer Moth, Aquaman, the Trickster, Poison Ivy, and the Tattooed Man (I know John can find a way to bring him back!).

Justin Dunnuck
25802 Maplewood Drive
Spring, TX 77386

Interesting set of characters, Justin. Aquaman has been busy with the aliens as noted in DOOM PATROL #17 and INVASION!. He is also due for a Secret Origin and then a fabulous five-part mini-series in spring 1989. Of the others, one is scheduled for an appearance in a few months.

* * * * *

Dear Bob,

First let me say thank you for bringing Vixen back into a monthly title where she belongs. I like the way her character is being somewhat redeveloped and she seems to fit in very well with the Squad. I certainly hope you are planning to get Vixen and Bronze Tiger romantically involved; they make a great couple.

The Squad's rematch with the Jihad in issues #17 and #18 was very well handled. The Jihad was more savage than ever, and Captain Cold makes a good addition to the Squad. I expected the actual battle in issue #18 to last a little longer, but I must admit I loved the way Deadshot handled Jaculi. Speaking of handling, I think it was terrific the way Col. Flag handled Amanda Waller in issue #17, but knowing her, I doubt she'll allow that kind of thing to continue.

Anyway, keep up the terrific work everybody!

Jason Hull
Route 4, Cresthill Drive
Louisville, TN 37777

* * * * *

Dear John, Luke, Bob, and Bob,

I trust SUICIDE SQUAD #18 is some indication that the book is going back to the "gritty realism" theme again. I mean, after meeting the JLI and then traversing unknown dimensions and zones, I was beginning to wonder if John was losing sight of the concept that makes Suicide Squad great: the concept of good characters in realistic situations within the boundaries of the DC Universe. Okay, I just contradicted myself didn't I? I really have to stop doing that. I was really impressed with this issue, although it did follow the pattern used in #2, the one where a squad member takes on the one Jihad member with related or opposite abilities. Utilizing this pattern is a good way of showing the comparisons and contrasts of the Squad's growth from issue one to present, but there's so much potential for future story lines with the Jihad, I was hoping this rematch would make the Jihad a more recurring force in the book. Luke's art seemed better than usual; he really has a knack for drawing intense fight scenes in bizarre locales. I'm also anxious to see what role, if any, Ravan will be playing in the book.

Well, I guess the book already has something of a recurring force: the U.S. Government, namely Derek Tolliver. The Wall isn't going to have the Squad murder Senator Cray and Tolliver is she? Ah yes, politics. Another element that makes this an excellent book to read. If Governor Dukakis is elected President, will it have any adverse effects on Task Force X's existence?

Ever since issue #1, you've consistently put Rick through hell. He's lost both parents and the woman he loved, was labeled expendable, and has had the crap beaten out of him on several occasions by at least several different people. What's the deal? Have something positive happen in his life instead of making him into a manic depressive.

The Trickster would be a welcome addition to the team instead of Captain Cold. He's already a great character who's a cross between the Bronze Tiger and Boomerang. I'm sure a lot of suicide missions could be found in South Africa, South Korea, Iran, and Iraq. Let's see some forces of Apokolips come after Lashina, the resolution of Boomerang's stint as Mirror Master, the Squad against the League of Assassins, and the current whereabouts of Argent.

Jason C. Van Hauter
3757 West Giddings
Chicago, IL 60625

You raised some very valid and interesting points in your letter, Jason, and you will be happy to know that John, Kim Yale and I have been talking a lot about the Squad's third year (already?). We're shaking everything up, as this issue and last testify. The Squad, by #27, will have a very different line-up for a while. Between now and then, we will deal with Cray, Tolliver (both this month), Flag (by #26), and the U.S. government. The Mirror Master story ended one chapter and opened up another and we think the tone will remain consistent between now and the time Lashina is ready to return to Apokolips (yes, that story is brewing, ever so slowly).

* * * * *

Dear Sirs,

Holy cow! SUICIDE SQUAD is by far my favorite comic today. The latest one was just so great I almost had a heart attack, no fooling. Page after page just full of power, my favorite was Captain Cold's speech on page 17. It was just chilling (no pun meant). I had always thought that he was a light weight; well, I would hate to get him mad at me!

Boomer is still my favorite bad guy with Cold a strong second. The only one I would like to see get it is Vixen—I have never liked her and would like to see her hit the road. Nightshade has got to be the sexiest female in comics today. I would like to see more members coming and going like The Trickster, the Joker, the Creeper, and (get ready) Jonah Hex.

David Webb
P.O. Box 565
Washington, NC 27889

That's three votes in three letters for the Trickster. I think this means something.

Dear Suicide Crew,

Heh, heh. The Jihad is back. First member is a 10-year-old girl, victim of the "troubles" in Northern Ireland. Such a euphemism, such a hatred. Does Batman feel the same kind of exhilaration when he beats up criminals? Once again today's violence has alienated and corrupted tomorrow's hope: innocent victims, children without parental love. Second newcomer: Agni, impressive and real efficient. I wouldn't have dared conceive that seeing "Lewis" in a subway could lead a man to commit such atrocities. Watch out, Bob! Then we witness someone looking a lot like Ravan—but for the fact that he seems very mobile and he lacks a white streak—adding a whole new dimension to the word 'possession.'

And now, here comes the new Jaculi. I bet she's been created in the lab of Jotunheim since her powers match exactly those of her late male counterpart. At last we see the old core of the Jihad with still a new Djinn used much more adequately this time.

As far as the Squad is concerned, the colonel worries me much. Indeed, he reminds me a lot of Adrian Chase. Now that he has lost everything from his relatives and loved ones to the respect of Batman, he's trying to be meaner in order to cope with the death of Karin and the failure he believes the Squad is. I'm afraid he's about to enter a private hell from which the only escape may turn out to be lethal.

Jean Poullot
122 Av. du 18 Juin 1940
92500 Rueil Malmaison
France

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Dear Editor,

For the non-Australian readers, "strewth" is a short form of "god's truth"!' This is under no circumstances to be used as evidence that Captain Boomerang is a religious man. A lot of slang that Boomerang uses is a little out of date. I assume this is because he has been out of the country for so long.

By the way, "Digger" usually refers to Australian soldiers (mostly from WW I and WW II). I rather doubt that Digger was ever in the military, so either he gave himself the nickname—very bad form—or picked it up from some sort of mining, maybe on the opal fields.

Michael Wood
13 Wagner Street
Oonoonbar 4811, Toronsville, QLD
Australia

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Dear People,

A few issues back, you said you believed that more older people are buying SUICIDE SQUAD, but in a *Comics Scene* interview, Alan Moore said that DC Comics *doesn't* know who their audience is.

How about DC and/or you taking a survey of your readers, asking their age, political persuasion, and opinions on current controversies concerning the comic book industry. I would be very interested in finding out the results and hope that you would be interested, also.

I have a few suggestions:

1) Have Suicide Squad take on Kobra and his Strike Force. Skull is an international threat and would also be worthy of the government's attention.

2) Use only heroes for domestic situations to avoid compromising the Squad's secrecy.

3) It's about time you killed someone off, but not Vixen, please.

4) The ankles on Luke McDonnell's characters are as thin as toothpicks. Please fill them out a bit.

Larry J. King
Bridge Street Box 1890
Morrisville, VT 05661

Alan was making a subjective statement; however, we have done some demographic research on some of our readers. It has always been nigh unto impossible to properly gauge the audience reached via newsstand. We do have a very good idea of who frequents the comic shops and, as stated, they are an older segment of the overall audience.

1) Okay.

2) Technically tough to deal with, but the upcoming line-up changes should confuse everything all the more.

3) Okay.

4) Hey, Luke, you want this guy's address?

*****

Dear Mr. Greenberger,

Some handscribbled remarks about SUICIDE SQUAD #18.

Uh, I don't know whether it was just the issues shipped out to Virginia Beach or what, but the letter column ended abruptly halfway through the fourth missive. What happened to page two? Was this an editorial mistake or a gaffe in printing? Can I get my money back? I deserve the second page. Who knows, one of those missing letters may have been mine!

I think John Ostrander is finally starting to lose it (although it is probably more due to overwork). "Manhattan Massacre" was over, seemingly, before it really began. Not enough time was spent on any part of the story, and what should have been an epic battle was little more than a minor skirmish. I grant you that a lot of people were needlessly killed and a lot of property was destroyed, but gratuitous violence does not make up for lack of story. This is the worst thing I've seen from John Ostrander ever since he came to DC. But hey, nobody's perfect (who am I to judge?).

Of course, it wasn't a total loss. There were a couple, or so, nice little touches sprinkled throughout. The pilot's reaction to Nightshade's transportation via shadow was well done. As was Captain Cold's soliloquy of his nom de guerre and Boomer-butt's cowardly denial to Ifrit/Mindboggler.

Still, however, a hard-earned dollar was an awful lot to expect for an issue that was thrown so haphazardly together. We pay for quality, don't we?

Roger D. Case
1199 Waterfront Drive #202
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Haphazardly? I disagree with that assessment, Roger. All the regulars appeared creatively, they all made their deadlines and no one rushed. Instead, I feel the story did not meet with your expectations and those of a few others. We might have been better served by going to a third issue so that the battle could spread out, but these things happen. Everyone is a wonderful quarterback on Monday.

We sent the second letters page but the printer gaffed and ran an ad instead of the text. It was a production error because the lead story ran 23 pages instead of 22. Sorry, no money back and your letter wasn't included.

Yes, you deserve the best we can produce for your dollar. And believe me, I'm trying, every month.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Flag's gone, Deadshot is in jail, and the Squad has gone public. So, of course, it's the perfect time for an alien invasion! Next month, see how the Squad handles threats in Russia and Australia. It's a neat little tale that directly ties in with the events depicted in INVASION! #2, so make sure you start by reading that book next week.

After that, well, just sit back and see. We're readying for a third year that can't be beat!

Until next time, keep those cards and letters coming. And watch the skies, you never know when an alien will land in your home town! Keep smiling!

—Bob Greenberger

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Perenially purveying a plenitude of purty, prettified pictures to my peerless pals!
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